

DDD Commission Meeting

Sept. 10, 2013, 8:00 a.m.

First United Methodist Church, Conference Center, 930 North Blvd.

Attending: Norman Chenevert, Derrell Cohoon, Fran Gladden, Ric Kearny, Van Mayhall, Jr., Chris Nichols

Absent: Verni Howard

Others in Attendance: Laura Acord, Tom Adamek, Ben Anderson, Gary Anderson, Josh Anderson, Jo Landry Bagwell, Jeremy Baker, Joy Banks, Alicia Baron, Jeffrey Beck, Matt Beeson, Kathryn Belanger, Cory Belder, Anna Beller, Debbie Bennett, Charles Bennett, Frances Bennett, Susannah Bing, Gary Black, Virginia Black, Shannon Blakeman, Suzanne Blanchard, Ben Blackwell, Julie Bondy, Timothy Boone, Chip Boyles, Benjamin Bradford, Jim Brandt, Chelsea Brasted, Kevin Broussard, , Gary Burkett, Jimmy Burland, Rex Cabaniss, Gayle Carnahan, Margaret Chappuis, Louis Claverie, Pete Clements, Cosimo Clements, Whitney Cooper, James Corry, Sara Courtney, Suzette Crocker, Ron Crum, Allison Crump, Zolton Csete, Scott D'Agostino, Chief Carl Dabadie, Lynn Daigle, Sandra Daire, Melissa Daly, Patrick Danna, Chad Danos, Nedra Davis, Tom Dawson, Angela deGravelles, Genny Denton, Rachael DiResto, Caroline Domecq, Jason Diu, Erin Ducote, Terri Dugas, Pat Duncan, Mary Durusau, Kendrick Ebanks, Kirk Elgin, Terry Elmore, Gwen Emick, Mark Entekin, Randy Faucheux, Peyton Feigley, Cassie Felder, Pat Fellows, Heather Folks, Clayton Forbes, Judy Foust, Mac Freeman, Richard Funke, Joey Furr, Rob Gann, Celeste Gill, Aaron Glaser, Brian Goad, Mark Goodson, Selena Grant, Rannah Gray, Lisa Gray, Ashanti Green, Lani Guilbeau, Hunter Hall, Jennifer Hall, Gaye Hamilton, Jenny Harbourt, Brandon Hargrave, Angela Harms, Debra Harris, Stephen Hazel, Daniel Hawthorne, John O. Hearin, Ryan Holcomb, Eric Vaughn Holowacz, Pam Hotard, Courtney Hunt, Chad Jackson, John Jackson, David Jacobs, Stacy Jamieson, Jennifer Jenkins, Martin Johnson, Sherry Johnson, Teresa Johnston, Claire Juneau, Nicole Kennelly, Tara Kistler, Irene Kotval, Joe Labbe, Ashley LaBorde, Mathew Laborde, Robert Lacinak, Kenneth Landry, Morgan Landry, Andee Lanier Michael Lang, Lori Lasseigne, Debbie Lapeyrouse, Jeremy Lapeyrouse, Beverly LeBeau, Gordon LeBlanc, Justin Lemoine, Jason Lockart, Anna Long, Diane Losavio, Mario Lozanov, Mary Jane Marcantel, Lauralyn Maranto, Nicole Marshall, Mark Martin, Fr. Pat Mascarella, Michael Mashburn, Eunice McCarney, Murray McCullough, Al McDuff, Jason Miller, Bob Mirabito, Ashley Montagnino, Rebecca Moses, Shawn Nolan, Amy Norval, Lucio Nunez, Mary Olinde, Ashley Ortego, Maestro Billy Overton, Vertina Overton, Renee Payton, Garland Pennison, Andrew Perry, Ashley Pierce, Andy Pine, Eric Poche, John Price, Lee Prieto, Jere Quinn, Tina Rance, Margaret Read, Dan Reed, Bill Reich, Eric Relle, Leif Remo, Davis Rhorer, Mike Rice, Jason Richards, Tanya Roberson, Darlene Rowland, Jenny Rozas, LeAnn Russo, Jamie Setze, Stephen Rust, Robyn Ryan, Diana Samuels, Sam Sanders, Larry Selders, Casey Sessums, Jamie Setze, Shay Schillilng, Darlene Shingleur, Sidni Shorts, Katie McKay Simpson, David Slaughter, John Smith, Lisa Smith, Loryn Smith, Anna Snyder, Tyler Spears, Karen Stagg, Bill Stark, Peter Summerlin, J. T. Sukits, Jan Sumrall, Cherry Talbert, Justin Tassin, Casey Tate, Patrick Terito, Elizabeth Thomas, Katie Thompson, Michael Trufant, Clark Vega, Rossie Washington, Jr., Spencer Watts, Pam Welsh, Emily Wharton

1. Ms. Chris Nichols called the meeting to order.

2. Ms. Chris Nichols declared a quorum.

3. Mr. Norman Chenevert moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Van Mayhall, Jr. seconded and the agenda was approved.

4. Mr. Derrell Cohoon moved to approve the August 13, 2013 minutes, Ms. Fran Gladden seconded and the minutes were approved.

Ms. Sherry Johnson shared a few words of wisdom. Mr. Davis Rhorer thanked First United Methodist Church for hosting the DDD meeting.

5. Board Action – There was no board action.

6a. Governmental Issues – Chief Carl Dabadie, Jr. – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the police badge. Chief Dabadie expressed that he is honored to be Chief of Police and stated that the department works hard every day. Chief Dabadie reported that he has implemented education programs to address the complaints received regarding communication skills of the officers. He believes in working together with everyone and it takes a combined effort to address the issues in the city. The crime statistics should be available within two weeks and he expects a decline in violent crime and credits the Project BRAVE. Mr. Rhorer complemented the Chief on the measures in place for downtown security such as the on the bicycle patrol and evening patrol.

6b. Development Initiatives – Florida and Lafayette Streetscape Improvements – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the proposed renderings. Each Commissioner received a copy of the resolution. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council approved \$300,000 contract for streetscape improvements on Lafayette and Florida. Ms. Jenny Harbourt, Reich & Associates, expressed her excitement to be a part of the project that will improve streetscape on Florida between 4th & River Rd. and on Lafayette St. between Convention and Main. Mr. Rhorer mentioned the project being a pilot program for screening surface parking lots downtown. He also mentioned an upcoming demonstration project that would feature parklets that green the street corridors.

St. Louis and St. Ferdinand Two-Waying – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the traffic flow map. Each Commissioner received a copy of the resolution. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council approved the low bid for the project. The project will reconfigure entrances from old south and LSU into downtown both St. Louis and St. Ferdinand will both be two way. New signals at North Blvd. and St. Louis and St. Ferdinand and North Blvd. it improves access into the parking garages. Mr. Rhorer commended everyone involved in the project.

River Park Development Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an aerial photograph of the development site. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council approved the TIF for the project. Mr. Clements commended Mr. Mark Drennen for his assistance with the project. Mr. Clements briefed the Commission on the project which will include commercial, retail, hotel, restaurants and a boardwalk along the Mississippi River. The ground breaking is expected to take place by the end of 2013. Ms. Cosimo Clements, executive assistant, informed the Commission that the project is 75% occupied, the 75% is composed of national and regional restaurants, live entertainment districts such as beer garden, dueling piano bar, upscale southern comfort restaurant, Spanish tapas restaurant and more. Mr. Rhorer commended Mr. Clements and everyone involved with the development.

Commerce Building Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the exterior of the building. Mr. Michael Lang informed the Commission that Milton J. Womack has been selected as the contractor. They are finalizing construction timing and costs and the construction time is 12 – 14 months from start to finish. The demolition package is in the final stages and should commence within 60 days. Demolition will consist of the interior except the columns and slab. Mr. Rhorer expressed that the project utilized state and historic tax credits and commended Mr. Michael Lang.

Downtown Greenway Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of the development phases. Each Commissioner received a copy of the resolution and newspaper articles. Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission that the following items were approved by the Metropolitan Council.

- Florida Street / Lafayette Street Improvements – contract approved
- Acceptance of funds – EBRMFA Planning Grant –appropriated
- TCSP – 1.4 million CEA – North Blvd. Promenade – contract approved
- BREC Expressway Park – entered into an agreement

Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the project is progressing as far as the scope of services. In the next 30 days will be submitted through the architectural selection board. Funding is in place to implement components from City Park to Town Square.

North Blvd. Town Square Web Cameras – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the rendering indicating the camera locations. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that cameras are being installed to the beacon screen and at Galvez Plaza. The camera on the beacon will be interactive with the public and the HD camera on Galvez Plaza will allow broadcast of events from Galvez Stage.

The Crest – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of The Crest and ribbon cutting ceremony. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Everyone viewed “The Crest” ribbon cutting video and Mr. Rhorer commended Mr. Casey Tate for the creation of the video and thanked everyone involved in the project.

CATS Touchdown Express / Downtown Transit Hub Meeting – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the CATS Trolley. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Bob Mirabito, Interim CEO, informed the Commission that the ridership on the Touchdown Express has increased. The hours of the trolley shuttle will possibly be extended for the Florida and Texas A&M game. CATS has proposed new route systems and scheduled six public meetings to gather input. The last meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 2, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Design Resource Center. Mr. Rhorer encouraged everyone to take advantage of the Touchdown Express and attend the public meeting.

Megabus – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Megabus. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Mike Alvich informed the Commission that the service began on Monday, September 9, 2013 and it is an express bus service point to point from large cities. Currently the Megabus travels direct from Baton Rouge to New Orleans and Houston. The bus runs 7 days a week 24 hours a day and the pickup location for Baton Rouge is the corner of Florida and Third Street. Mr. Michael Mashburn expressed his appreciation on the assistance from the DDD office. Mr. Rhorer encouraged everyone to visit megabus.com for more information and to purchase tickets.

Downtown Bike Racks – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the proposed bike rack. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the DDD is working with CRPC who received a grant to install up to 200 bicycle racks. The DDD is working with CRPC to create a map location of bicycle racks in the downtown area.

Downtown Residential Checklist – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of residences in Central Business District and Beauregard Town. Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission that the committee has met with several agencies regarding the issues identified by the committee. There is a meeting scheduled Tuesday, September 17 with agencies and residents to create a resource for the downtown residents. At the end of the project a manual will be created to use as a resource for the residents. Mr. Rhorer thanked Ms. Chris Nichols and agencies involved with the project.

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Literary City Committee – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Louisiana Book Festival. Each Commissioner received a copy of the literary white paper entitled “B. R. A Literary City”. Mr. Van Mayhall, Jr. briefed the Commission on the literary heritage of Baton Rouge and expressed that to regain the preeminence in the area the following four recommendations are submitted by the committee:

- Form a 501C3 organization
- Foster the creation of book clubs – How to template online
- Resources available on web site
- Work with Louisiana Book Festival to create a system of awards and recognition

Davis Rhorer requested that the board review the white paper and act on the item at the October DDD board meeting.

Red Stick Revelry – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Ms. Rannah Gray informed the Commission that the city of Baton Rouge will have a 2013 New Year’s Eve celebration in North Blvd. Town Square. The event is funded by private partners and will include the following:

- Drop an iconic red stick from the top of the beacon in NBTS - Presented as a gift to the city
- Event begins at 9:00 p.m.
- Live music by Phat Hat
- Family events during the day

Ms. Gray expressed that sponsorships are available and for additional information visit www.resdstickreverlry.com.

New Business – Fresh – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Mr. Patrick Fellows informed the Commission that he will be opening a second location “Fresh Junkie”, which will be located at 303 North Blvd., will open in October 2013. The restaurant will offer the same menu and the Main Street Market location will remain open. Mr. Fellows briefed the Commission on the Louisiana Marathon that is scheduled January 17 - 19, 2014.

Events – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, the logos for the following events. Each Commissioner received flyers on the events. Mr. Casey Tate briefed the Commission on the following events. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Shaw Center for the Arts will host the Rotary Club of Baton Rouge Oct. 2 meeting. This meeting will showcase Shaw Center.

- Belle of Baton Rouge Concerts / Comedy – Sept. 11, 13, 18, 20, 26, 27 & Oct. 4
- Live After Five Concerts – Sept. 13,20, 27, Oct. 4, 11,18,25
- Living Legacy – Sept. 10
- B.R. Hops Festival – Sept. 14
- Walk A Mile in Her Shoes – Sept. 22
- Go for Broke – Sept. 23
- Zombie Run – Oct. 4
- B. R. Arts Market / Red Wig Walk – Oct. 5
- YELP 5K – Sept. 6
- Capitol Park Museum
- Old State Capitol
- Foundation for Historical Louisiana/Old Governor's Mansion
- Manship Theatre Events / LSU MOA
- River Center Events
- LASM

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7. **Strategic Plan – Plan Baton Rouge II** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the PBR II cover. The DDD continues to implement the plan.

8. **Ongoing Projects – CPEX** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an image of the CPEX logo. Ms. Elizabeth Thomas briefed the Commission on Park (ing) Day which is an international event. The event is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 20 and will include parklets downtown and Mid City. Ms. Thomas informed the Commission that the Smart Growth Summit is scheduled for November 18 – 20, 2013.

BREADA – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the BREADA logo. Mrs. Darlene Rowland encouraged everyone to continue to support the market and briefed the Commission on the following events:

- Cooking Demonstration by Chef Nathan Gresham
- Monday – Friday – Breakfast and Lunch available

8. **Correspondence** – There was no correspondence.

9. **Public Comment** – Ms. Mary Durusau encouraged everyone to attend the book signing of “Breaking the Line” Thursday, September 12, 6:00 p.m. at the Old State Capitol.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00am.